



AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

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Here and Abroad

People—Places—Events

NEW RUSSIAN RAILROAD

Russia is hurrying to finish a 700-mile rail line in time to help with the fall wheat harvest in southwestern Siberia. The line is the first part of a 1,300-mile network. When the system is completed in 1957, no farm in the area will be more than 60 or 70 miles from a railroad. In addition to the railroad, Russia hopes to build 2,200 miles of new highways to connect the rail lines with the farms.

RECORD NUMBER OF CARS

Last year more motor vehicles were registered in the United States than ever before—a total of 58½ million. Americans averaged one car for each 2.8 persons, about a four per cent gain over the previous year. Florida, Nevada, and Louisiana showed the greatest increase in car registrations. States with the largest number of automobiles registered were California, New York, and Pennsylvania.

FIRST LADIES ON DISPLAY

The Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C., is showing off its famous collection of life-size wax figures of First Ladies in a new setting. The museum has replaced the old glass cases where the figures stood for many years. The Presidential wives now appear in a new First Ladies' Hall, with eight rooms furnished and decorated for different periods of our history.

MORE NEW HIGHWAYS

Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Iowa are planning to build large networks of superhighways. Construction has already started on a 236-mile Kansas turnpike. Oklahoma, Iowa, and Missouri hope to start work on new superhighways soon.

SUPERMARKETS FOR BRITAIN

Britain, long famous as a nation of small shopkeepers, is taking to American supermarkets. The trend toward supermarkets began in Britain a little more than a year ago. Proprietors of the new stores find that customers buy more than they used to in small shops.

SECRET SERVICE ASSIGNMENT

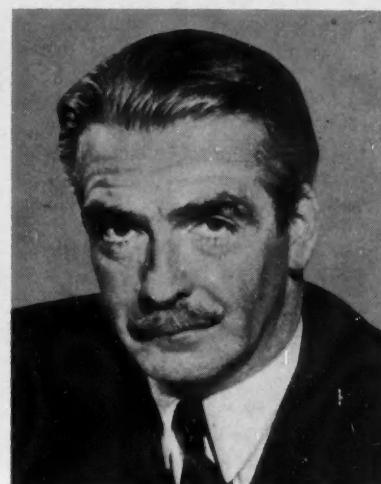
When the Big Four nations hold a meeting in Europe this summer, among the busiest people present will be the Secret Service men who must protect President Eisenhower. Wherever President Eisenhower goes, the Secret Service must keep crowds back, guard his working and living quarters against fire and other hazards, and protect him from plots on his life.

REFUGEES FROM FAMINE

Peasants in Red China are fleeing to the cities in order to escape this year's famine. The Chinese government has moved some 60,000 peasants from the country's hardest hit areas to new lands in northern Manchuria.



WIDE WORLD
Dwight Eisenhower
United States



BRITISH INFORMATION SERVICE
Anthony Eden
Great Britain



UNITED PRESS
Edgar Faure
France



WIDE WORLD
Nikolai Bulganin
Soviet Union

WHEN PLANS for a Big Four conference got under way, these men were expected to represent their nations

Plans Are Taking Shape for Big Four Conference

First Top-Level Talks in 10 Years Between Western Lands and Soviet Union Will Be Held This Summer

PRESIDENT Dwight Eisenhower is now making plans to go to Europe this summer for what may be the most important international conference since World War II. He will meet with the top leaders of Great Britain, France, and the Soviet Union to discuss the major difficulties facing the world. Premier Nikolai Bulganin will represent the Soviet Union at the summer parley. Providing there have been no changes in the British and French governments from the time the conference was announced, Prime Minister Anthony Eden will represent Great Britain, while Premier Edgar Faure will represent France.

For several years there has been talk from time to time of a Big Four conference, but not until earlier this month did the prospect of such a meeting become a reality. Then the Soviet Union agreed to a proposal—put forth jointly by the United States, Great

Britain, and France—for a summer parley.

Detailed plans are not complete at this time, but agreed upon is a conference of the chiefs of state accompanied by their foreign ministers. The top leaders will meet for a limited time—possibly three or four days. Eisenhower, Bulganin, and their British and French counterparts will sound each other out and formulate broad issues. Then the foreign ministers will proceed to examine the problems in detail. In the latter stage of the meeting, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles will represent the United States.

What brought about the decision to have a top-level meeting this summer? A number of factors were involved. While certain U. S. and other western officials did not look favorably on the idea of having a Big Four meeting at

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Farmers Fighting Against Drought

Long Stretch of Dry Weather Brings Serious Problems to Our Great Plains

AFTER a light shower in Baltimore several weeks ago, people noticed that the rain drops had left reddish brown splotches on sidewalks, cars, and elsewhere. Weather Bureau officials explained that this strange coloring consisted of soil from the fields of Texas and certain neighboring states. Fierce winds have been sweeping the drought-stricken western plains this spring, raising vast clouds of dust. Some of the particles from these clouds have drifted all the way to the Atlantic coast.

Dry weather has hurt many parts of our nation during recent years, but the worst trouble—so far as agriculture is concerned—is in the southwestern Great Plains. The drought there has been so long and severe that it has permitted a tremendous amount of topsoil to "dry up and blow away."

Heavy rains, occurring within the last week or two, have relieved drought conditions in certain areas. However, it would take a long period of moist weather to bring the plains region back to normal.

The U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Benson, expects to meet with a group of governors from the Great Plains states in Denver this week to discuss plans for helping the farmers whose land is being damaged. Within the last month or so, Mr. Benson has done a great deal of traveling in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico to familiarize himself with the drought problem. These are among the states that have experienced the most trouble this spring. Also badly affected are parts of Wyoming and Nebraska. (See map on page 2.)

Great stretches of wheat land are within the drought area. But this doesn't mean that our nation is in immediate danger of a wheat shortage. Surpluses of the grain are still on hand from past years.

Even so, the drought constitutes a terrible problem for the regions in its grip. It slashes the farmers' incomes. It hurts merchants and businessmen with whom the farmers trade. It causes soil damage that can be repaired only through a long period of good rainfall. As Secretary Benson recently commented, "No nation can afford to permit its land, its most basic resource, to be destroyed. This is true even of the United States, one of the world's most abundantly favored nations."

The plague of dry weather and dust on our Great Plains isn't something that has just developed over the last few months. In regions where the drought is worst, there hasn't been a

(Concluded on page 2)

Drought, Wind, and Dust

(Concluded from page 1)

normal amount of rain for several years. When heavy winds sweep across the dry ground, they stir up huge dust storms—"black blizzards" that cast their grimy haze far beyond those areas from which the soil is actually blowing.

The most seriously stricken areas today are in the same general region which suffered a long and severe drought about 20 years ago. During that earlier period, this section acquired an unwanted name—"the Dust Bowl"—and some observers are applying the term again.

Many people who live in the drought areas, however, don't like the use of such catch-phrases. They say: "It will give our part of the country a bad reputation. We are merely going through a temporary setback. We don't want people in other sections to form the impression that the southern Great Plains is a desert land."

Promising Future

Observers familiar with the bountiful supplies of grain and livestock that come from this region in favorable years are in no danger of getting such an idea. Farm experts know that the Great Plains drought area has a promising future despite its bleak appearance today, and they are already discussing the means by which later droughts can possibly be kept from doing so much damage.

People familiar with the Great Plains region know that its weather generally goes in cycles—with periods of sufficient moisture followed by periods of dry weather. What the farmers do, as a group, during the comparatively moist years can have a direct bearing on how well they pull through a drought later.

It is generally agreed, for example, that the effects of drought in the

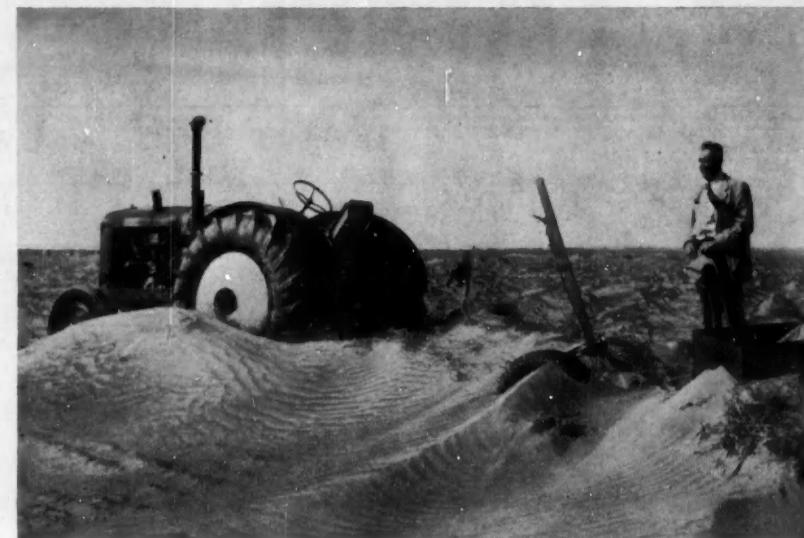
1930's were made more severe by the extensive plowing and cultivating that had been done on the Great Plains before that time. World War I marked the beginning of a tremendous wheat-raising boom. Heavy demand for grain during that conflict sent prices skyrocketing. Farmers plowed up millions of acres of grass in the belt of land just east of the Rockies, and planted wheat. Modern machinery increased the amount of land that each farmer could tend.

All during the 1920's, farmers continued tearing up the prairie sod. Some of the land they plowed was in regions where the *average* rainfall is extremely light. So long as the weather is favorable, such ground produces fine crops of grain, but in dry periods it is suitable mainly for grass. During such periods, the soil *needs* grass for protection against the wind. But when the weather turned dry, shortly after 1930, the plowed land didn't have enough vegetation to hold the topsoil in place.

Heavy spring winds were able to stir up "black blizzards" from the dry, dusty earth. In some cases the storm could sweep ahead for miles and miles, unbroken by obstacles of grassland.

After several years of such conditions, moist weather returned to the plains. At about the same time, World War II began and there developed a greater demand for wheat and other farm products than ever before. Prices of these items went sky high, and the federal government encouraged farmers to raise all the grain they could.

As a result, precautions against the next siege of drought were in some cases neglected—such precautions as leaving strips of grassland across the path of the prevailing winds. This failure—especially during the war years—was not the farmers' fault. In



WHERE DROUGHT has hit the hardest, dust lies in drifts

UNITED PRESS

the early and middle 1940's, they would have been sharply criticized if they had *not* devoted practically all their efforts to raising food crops.

Nevertheless, when drought returned in the early 1950's, the Great Plains wasn't well prepared to meet it. By this time, far more land had been plowed than in the 1930's. Two adjoining counties in eastern Colorado, for instance, had a total of only 312,000 acres under cultivation in 1930 as compared to 950,000 acres in 1953.

In many areas, too, the farmers had sought to raise far more cattle than their pastures could safely support. These cattle ate the grass away to such an extent that it was in poor shape to withstand drought and protect the land against blowing.

Recent wind erosion on the Great Plains, according to soil conservation experts, has done considerable harm to 13 million acres. This is approximately twice as much land as the state of Maryland contains. About a month ago, a reporter in the drought region wrote as follows: "This new dust bowl, which has been developing since 1951, is now as large as that of the 1930's; and the damage, in some areas, is worse."

Nevertheless, *economic* conditions in the hardest-hit sections are not so bad now as they were during the drought of 20 years ago. The earlier dry spell struck while the nation was still feeling the effects of a great depression, during which the farmers had received pitifully low prices for their grain and livestock. The present drought began after a long period of bountiful crops, sold at high prices. While it is true that many farmers are extremely hard-pressed, the Great Plains area as a whole is better equipped financially to weather the storm now than it was 20 years ago.

Farmers are not giving up in despair during the present drought, as many of them did in the 1930's. They have far more knowledge, today, about fighting the dust storms. In many areas they are "listing" and "chiseling" the soil to reduce or prevent wind erosion. This means that they go through the fields with implements which leave a rough, cloudy surface. Ground in this condition resists blowing far better than if it were smooth.

In their battle against the dust, farmers receive encouragement from federal, state, and local agencies. Nearly 8 million dollars in federal money was distributed last year to help pay for chiseling, listing, and other work. About the same amount is likely to be spent this year.

Various observers ask: "Why don't

the Great Plains people try some of the modern rain-making methods that science has developed?" The answer is that rain making succeeds only when there is considerable moisture in the atmosphere. For a long time in the Great Plains region, the air has been dry, like the soil.

The steps now being carried out, in the areas of worst drought, are emergency measures. At some future time, when the next period of rainy years begins, action may be taken to lessen the effects of later droughts.

In the first place, farmers are being urged to restore the grass on sizable stretches of damaged land—as soon as there is enough moisture to permit its growth. Certain conservation experts believe that about 8 million acres should be thus "retired."

U. S. Ownership?

Many people contend that our federal government should purchase land in the regions that have been hardest hit by drought, and turn it back to grass as soon as possible. But Secretary of Agriculture Benson doesn't favor this idea. Though he agrees that there are large areas which probably should be retired to grassland, he thinks private owners should remain in control.

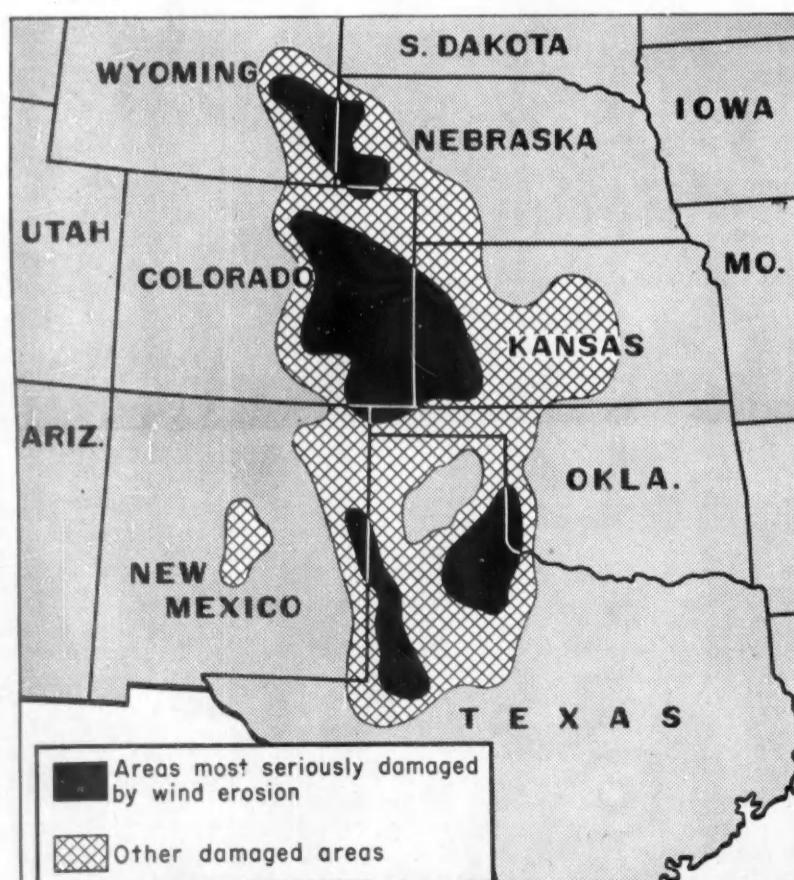
For land that is kept in cultivation, producing wheat and similar crops, there are methods of farming so as to conserve all possible moisture in the ground. If these methods are followed during wet years, the soil stores up water so that it can endure dry periods reasonably well.

Also, in regions where wind erosion is a constant threat, the farmers often use a type of plow which leaves the trash and stubble on top of the ground as protection against heavy winds.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with local officials, has sought to promote such practices. Many people argue, though, that the federal soil conservation program receives far too little emphasis.

Meanwhile, it is encouraging that numerous Great Plains farmers *have* been following sound conservation policies. If they had not been doing so, the effects of the present drought would probably be much worse than they are now.

Naturally, if a drought lasts long enough it will cause crop failures, sear the pastures, and bring dust storms—no matter how carefully the ground has been tended. Agricultural experts hope, however, that further progress in farming methods will eventually put the Great Plains in better shape to withstand future droughts.



DRY WEATHER has afflicted large areas near the heart of the country in varying degrees of intensity

WEEKLY DIGEST OF FACT AND OPINION

(The views expressed on this page are not necessarily endorsed by the AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"Most Indians Are Poor," by Harold Fey, *The Christian Century*.

While a few tribes of American Indians possess resources which in the course of time have become valuable, as a whole the Indians live in deeper poverty than any other racial group in the nation.

With American prosperity at unprecedented heights, we are rightly concerned to help the world's exiles and the people of underdeveloped lands attain a higher level of life. Should we not be equally ready to help hundreds of thousands of American citizens whose poverty condemns them to live without adequate food, housing, or even clothing? We are properly alerted to do what we can to prevent disease and unrest abroad; should we not be equally aware that the life expectancy of Indians in America is in many places less than half that of a white person? Our government seeks to help education abroad. But the Navahos, our largest Indian tribe, average less than one year of school.

What can be done? We can build industrial plants in Indian areas to give the people jobs. We are doing it for people in other lands, why not in the United States?

We can provide more farm and construction work for the Indians near



MOST INDIANS are poor. Among the most poverty stricken is this family living in tents in a desolate region of Arizona.

dangerous weapon of subversion.

Nevertheless, the overseas Chinese communities are sufficiently useful to the communists and the Nationalists so that both fight a continuous battle to control them. The communists and the Nationalists want access to their wealth. Both think if they could show that all overseas Chinese support their regime, they could gain considerable "face" and further evidence for the claim to be the only lawful and popular government of China.

But the constant struggle for the overseas Chinese brings Peiping and Taipei up against the suspicions and fears of Southeast Asian governments, which, resent the fact that the mainland and Formosa view all overseas Chinese as citizens of China.

Many of these governments put harsh restrictions on their Chinese populations. They tax them heavily and put obstructions in the way of their making a living.

What most Southeast Asian governments want is to force the Chinese to choose publicly and permanently between Chinese citizenship and allegiance to the country of their residence. What the average Chinese wants to do is to have his cake and eat it. He wants to continue living abroad and also to retain his Chinese way of life.

The only solution to the problems of these Chinese minorities is for them to mix in with the people of the countries they have adopted. Many Chinese see this. Many are moving in this direction, some eagerly, some grudgingly and reluctantly.

"Russia's Calamity," by Edward Crankshaw, *The Atlantic*.

When Beria was arrested in the summer of 1953, one of the charges was that he had been sabotaging agriculture. Eighteen months later Malenkov explained his own fall by confessing that he had made a mess of agriculture. It became clear that the Soviet leaders must be very worried about agricultural production if they felt the need for two scapegoats of the highest rank.

Indeed they are, and with reason. Khrushchev, in fact, has been saying that something was very wrong for the past year and more. In 1953 he outlined the situation as disastrous.

Khrushchev has demanded great new efforts but things are still going

come to grief. One thing is certain: if production cannot be increased and soon, it will mean the beginning of the end of Soviet communism.

"Jail Is No Place for Children in Trouble," by Ruth and Edward Brecher, *Collier's*

Every year, across the country, fully 100,000 boys and girls from seven to 17 are held in county jails and police lockups. Most of the places are not even fit for adults. Thousands more youngsters are held in basement cells or behind bars in so-called detention homes—medieval monstrosities which, in effect, are children's dungeons.

Some of these children are guilty of no crime, but have no decent home to go to. Others were picked up merely for breaking a window, playing hooky from school, or loitering. Some are charged with serious crimes—but even that hardly excuses the harsh penalty they must pay even before their cases go to court. Many stay months in jail before their cases are disposed of.

Many state laws ban the jailing of children under a certain age. Most states also prohibit jailing children in the same cells with adult offenders. But where there are no civilized facilities for detaining youngsters in trouble these laws are mere scraps of paper. Law or no law, in most of our 48 states children still land in jail.

Take the example of one western state. Altogether 9,086 children from eight to 17 years old were admitted to more than 50 jails in which they spent a total of 106,114 days. Girls in the women's section are usually forced to share facilities and conversation with women forgers, dope peddlers, and other criminals. Boys were known to be placed in cells next to those of mentally deranged prisoners.

Some communities are doing something about this situation. Seattle has a new 1 1/4 million dollar Youth Service Center which cares for children in trouble. Allentown, Pennsylvania, keeps children who have run afoul of the law in a special home which assures them kindly but firm attention, good food and a chance to prove they can do better than they have in the past. Connecticut sends arrested children home. A probation officer takes up their cases and steers them back to the right paths. These are some of the things being done to keep children out of jail.



AMONG the millions of Chinese living outside of China are these children in the British colony, Hong Kong.

their homes. We can relocate the Indians by taking them out of the barren corners of the nation in which they have been pushed and settle them in more lush areas. We can prepare white communities for friendly reception of Indians who relocate.

"Reappraisal of the Overseas Chinese," by Peggy Durdin, *The New York Times Magazine*.

The Chinese who live away from their homeland and in Southeast Asian lands are more fascinating than most people realize and less important, in "cold war" terms, than many people suppose.

Southeast Asia Chinese are generally small minorities distrusted by the countries of their residence. They have strong economic position but no political power and virtually no political influence. Nowhere in the area, except in Malaya, are they even a



RUSSIA HAS some up-to-date farm machinery, but the country as a whole is way behind in food production.

The Story of the Week

Newsmaker

General Maxwell Taylor, 53-year-old commander of our Far Eastern forces, will become Army Chief of Staff on July 1. He will replace General Matthew Ridgway, who plans to retire from active Army duty at the end of June.

As Chief of Staff, General Taylor will be the military head of the Army and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—a group made up of a chairman and the uniformed heads of the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy. The JCS meets regularly to plan global military strategy and to suggest long-range defense programs for the nation. Its present chairman is Admiral Arthur Radford.

General Taylor made a name for himself in the Army as a paratrooper. During World War II, he led the 101st Airborne Division in its assault on



GENERAL MAXWELL TAYLOR will become Army Chief of Staff on July 1 (see story)

enemy-held Europe. Taylor was one of the first American officers to fight the Germans on French soil.

General Taylor was also in the thick of the fighting in Korea, during the war against communist aggressors in the Far East. There, he took over the command of American and other United Nations forces in 1953.

In addition to front-line fighting, General Taylor has carried out special diplomatic missions for the Army in Japan, Latin America, and other parts of the globe. He went behind enemy lines during World War II to help prepare the way for Allied attacks against the enemy in Italy. After the global conflict ended, General Taylor served as superintendent of West Point for four years.

Born in Keytesville, Missouri, Taylor graduated from West Point in 1922. He became proficient in foreign languages and taught French and Spanish for a time to men in the armed forces. He now speaks some half dozen foreign tongues. In his spare time he likes to read books on philosophy and Greek literature. He is also fond of such sports as tennis, squash, and hiking.

Red Riddle

A short time ago, the Soviet Union organized the European lands under its control into a united military force. Actually, the Soviet satellites have been taking orders from Moscow on military and other matters ever since they were swallowed up behind the

Iron Curtain a number of years ago.

Nevertheless, Russia's latest move is expected to tie Soviet and satellite armed forces even closer together. Russian Marshal Ivan Konev heads the military organization's troops. Some 1½ million armed men from Moscow's satellites and an additional 4 or 5 million Russian troops are said to be under Konev's new command.

Russia has also been trying to get communist Yugoslavia, which broke with Moscow in 1948, into the eastern European military alliance. Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin and other top Russian officials visited Yugoslavia recently. As of last week, we don't know what decisions, if any, were reached by Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito and his Soviet visitors.

Observers on this side of the Iron Curtain are now asking these questions about Russia's latest moves in eastern Europe:

Did Moscow set up a new military organization so she can use it as a bargaining point in forthcoming Big Four talks (see page 1)? Will the Reds demand a break-up of our North Atlantic Treaty Organization defense system as a price for doing away with their new military team? Or is it an excuse for keeping Soviet troops in eastern European lands now that an Austrian peace treaty requires them to move their armies out of that area?

Will Tito, who recently assured western leaders that he won't turn his back on them, change his mind and join Moscow's military alliance?

Border Dispute

Afghanistan is having trouble with one of her Asian neighbors—Pakistan. The two countries are arguing over the rights of tribesmen who live near the Afghan-Pakistani border.

Pakistan claims that the land where the tribesmen live is a part of her territory. Afghanistan says that isn't so. She wants the tribesmen to have their own independent land to be called Pushtunistan. Now, Prince Musaid, uncle of King Saud of Saudi Arabia, is in Afghanistan trying to get the two sides to settle their dispute.

The border trouble puts the spotlight on a mysterious land. Wedged between Pakistan, Iran, and Russia, the kingdom of Afghanistan has some 13 million inhabitants. It has never been accurately measured, but it is



WIDE WORLD

SEVERAL U. S. railroads are ordering this new Talgo train. Its light weight and low construction enable it to take curves more smoothly. Each car can accommodate 84 to 96 passengers. The Talgo design was first used in Spain.

believed to be about the size of Texas. Completely landlocked, the country has no coast.

Although much of Afghanistan is covered by mountains and deep valleys, some farming is carried on. Fruit, melons, castor beans, grain, tobacco, and cotton are the chief crops. The raising of sheep and camels is also important. Since there are no railroads and no rivers suitable for shipping, most of the travel is on camels or pack horses.

King Mohammed Zahir and Premier Sardar Mohammed Daud govern Afghanistan with the help of a legislature. While the country is building some new schools, more than nine tenths of the Afghans can neither read nor write.

Looting in Austria

"We are a poor country but a happy one." That is what many Austrians are saying about their land today. They are happy because a peace treaty, signed by the United States, Britain, France, and Russia earlier this month, will make Austria a free nation once more. They are poor largely because Russia is taking a big slice of their wealth away from them as a price for signing the peace treaty.

Under the treaty terms, Austria is to send 150 million dollars' worth of goods to Moscow each year for the next six years. She is required to

give the Soviet Union 72 million barrels of oil, worth about 200 million dollars, over the next 10 years. The little European land must also pay Russia 2 million dollars for the return of an Austrian steamship company taken over by the Reds after World War II.

Thus far, Moscow has already taken an estimated 1½ billion dollars' worth of materials out of Austria since the end of World War II! The Reds dismantled entire factories in their zone of Austria and shipped them off to Russia. Moscow also took over a number of oil refineries, banks, and other business firms in the European land.

The western nations, on the other hand, aren't asking Austria to make any payments whatsoever to them. In fact, we have already provided the Austrians with an estimated one billion dollars in aid since 1945.

German Army

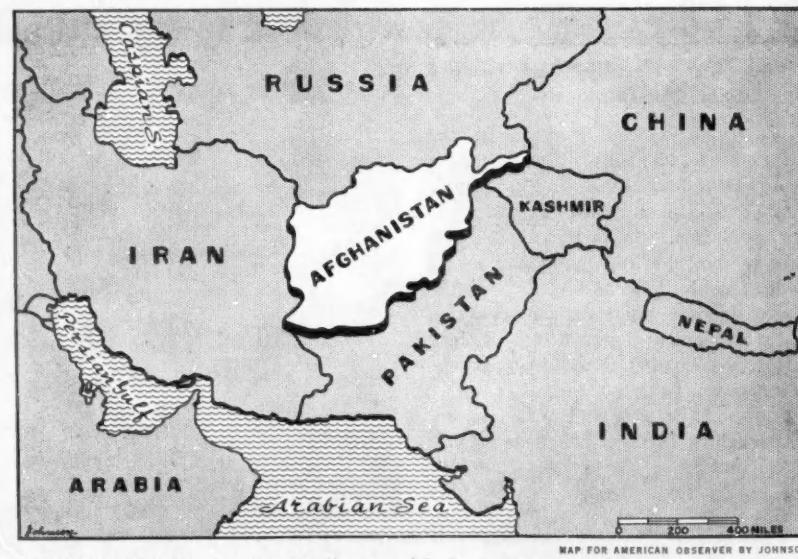
West Germany hopes to have the first units of a 500,000-man armed force in uniform by next fall. At least 120,000 volunteers have already signed up for the new German army.

West Germany, as we know, is now a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and was given authority to arm 500,000 men for defense purposes. Her forces will be linked with those of NATO and will be supervised by the Western European Union. WEU, which is closely tied with NATO, was organized to promote close economic and military cooperation among West Germany, Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg.

Before a West German armed force can become a reality, however, the nation's legislature must (1) provide funds for military purposes; (2) set up a recruiting system; and (3) organize a special committee, required by West German law, to appoint top military officers of the defense forces.

Phony Stocks

The Securities and Exchange Commission—a government agency that supervises the sale of shares of ownership in our industries—is checking into the stock-selling deals of a number of firms. Most of the compa-



AFGHANISTAN is in a border dispute with the government of Pakistan (see story)

nies being questioned by the SEC are newly organized concerns dealing in uranium and other mining stocks.

SEC officials say that the stocks of some of these firms, which operate both in the United States and in Canada, are next to worthless. Irresponsible promoters are leading stock buyers to believe that huge profits can be made from their uranium shares. Some of the firms, the SEC contends, don't even buy the equipment needed to hunt for uranium! They simply pocket the money from the sale of their stocks.

The New York Stock Exchange and other organized groups which deal in business shares want the SEC to put a stop to the phony uranium stock deals. They fear that Americans might lose confidence in reputable mining and other stocks if shady practices aren't halted.

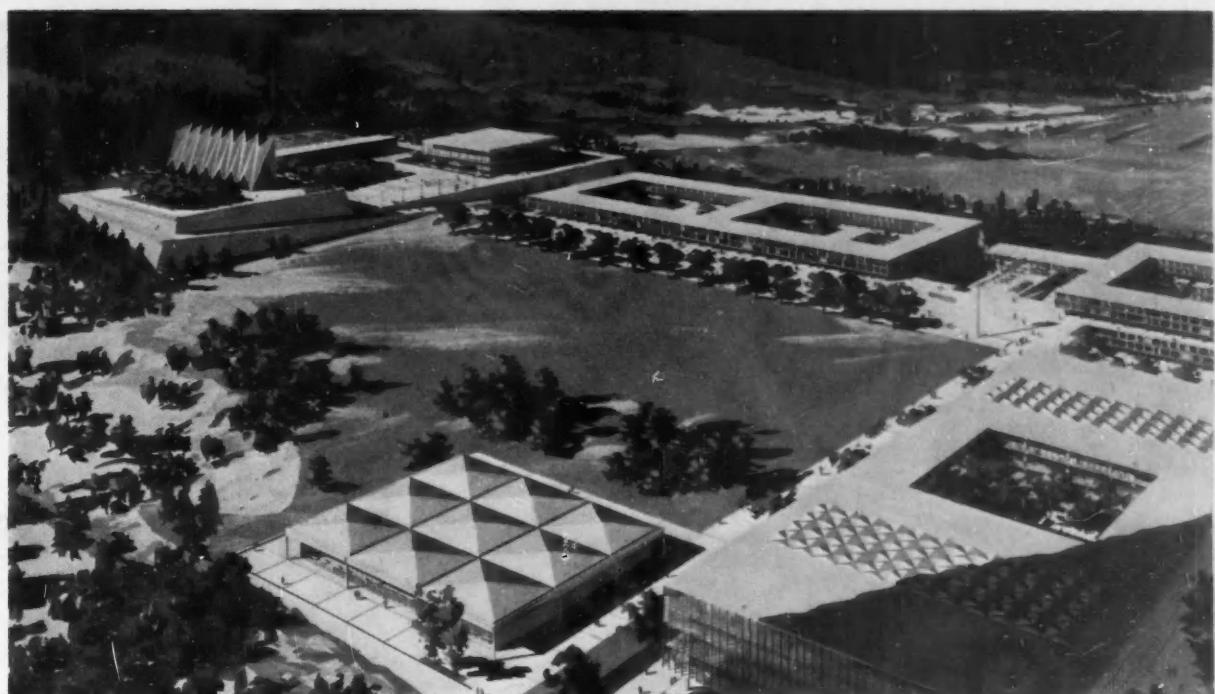
The SEC is now studying ways to strengthen laws governing the sale of business shares. Our officials are discussing plans with Canada for stopping the sale of worthless Canadian stocks in the United States. Congress is also investigating the matter.

More Than 20 Treaties

Since World War II, Uncle Sam has signed more than 20 treaties and agreements having to do with peace and defense. These include peace treaties with Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, and Italy signed in 1947; the Japanese peace treaty of 1951; and a peace agreement with Austria which was concluded earlier this month.

The Rio de Janeiro Pact, a defense agreement between the United States and our Latin American neighbors, was signed in 1947. A year later, the same nations set up the Organization of American States (OAS)—a group which tries to settle disputes among Western Hemisphere countries.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, based on a treaty, was started in 1949. Its charter members, in addition to the United States, are Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and Portugal. In 1951, Greece and Turkey became NATO partners, and this year West Germany was made a member.



THE AIR FORCE'S new academy near Colorado Springs, Colorado, will look like this from the air when it is completed in 1957. Even in this architect's drawing, one can see how large the new training school for Air Force officers will be.

A security pact between Uncle Sam and Australia and New Zealand was put into operation in 1951. Another Pacific defense team—the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization—was set up by the United States, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Pakistan, and Thailand last fall.

In addition to these agreements, we have defense pacts with a number of individual countries, including Japan, Formosa, the Philippines, and South Korea.

Memorial Day

Today (May 30) is a special day on which Americans remember all armed forces members who gave their lives for their country. On this day, called Memorial or Decoration Day, Americans place flowers and flags on the graves of men who died in battle. Military parades and other special programs are held.

The idea for a day to remember the war dead originated when southern women scattered spring flowers on the graves of soldiers from both sides

in the War Between the States. Later, many states set aside May 30 as a day to honor men who died in that conflict. Now, the war dead of all our major conflicts are remembered on Memorial Day.

A number of southern states, however, still have a separate day to honor their men who fell in the Civil War. Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi set aside April 26 to remember these men. North and South Carolina observe a holiday on May 10, Louisiana and Tennessee on June 3, and Virginia on May 30.

While Memorial Day is intended principally to honor the war dead, it is also a traditional day for families to decorate the graves of their relatives.

For Former Presidents

The U. S. House of Representatives is now going over a proposal which would grant \$22,500 a year in pensions to living former Presidents. The Senate has already passed the measure, which would benefit our two living ex-Presidents—Harry Truman, a Democrat, and Herbert Hoover, a Republican.

The Senate-passed bill not only provides pensions for living ex-Presidents, but it also calls for payments of \$10,000 a year to widows of Chief Executives. Women who would immediately begin to receive pensions under this plan include Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, Mrs. Calvin Coolidge, and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson.

If the plan is approved, it will be the first time in our history that ex-Presidents will receive regular pension checks from Uncle Sam. In the past, Congress has sometimes voted to provide up to \$5,000 a year to widows of Chief Executives.

Strikes Ahead?

Next week, representatives of the steelworkers' union will sit down with steel company officials to discuss a new work contract. The steelworkers say they will ask for a "substantial wage increase" this year. Company representatives have not yet said what

they intend to do about demands for pay boosts. If no agreement can be reached between the two sides by the end of June, the steelworkers say they may walk off their jobs.

Talks between workers and their employers are going on in other industries, too. Work contracts in a number of big auto plants, electrical industries, glass firms, and paper-making plants are due to expire within the next few weeks. Most workers in these industries plan to ask for pay increases.

In addition to seeking pay boosts, auto workers also want a *guaranteed annual wage* this year. Under this plan, a worker who is laid off would be entitled to keep on receiving his regular wages for a specified length of time.

The program would be planned to fit in with the state unemployment compensation systems which already exist. The amount which an unemployed worker obtained from the state would be deducted from the guaranteed annual wage payments given by his company.

A number of auto workers have already voted to strike if necessary to win their demands from management.

Trade Fair Rivalry

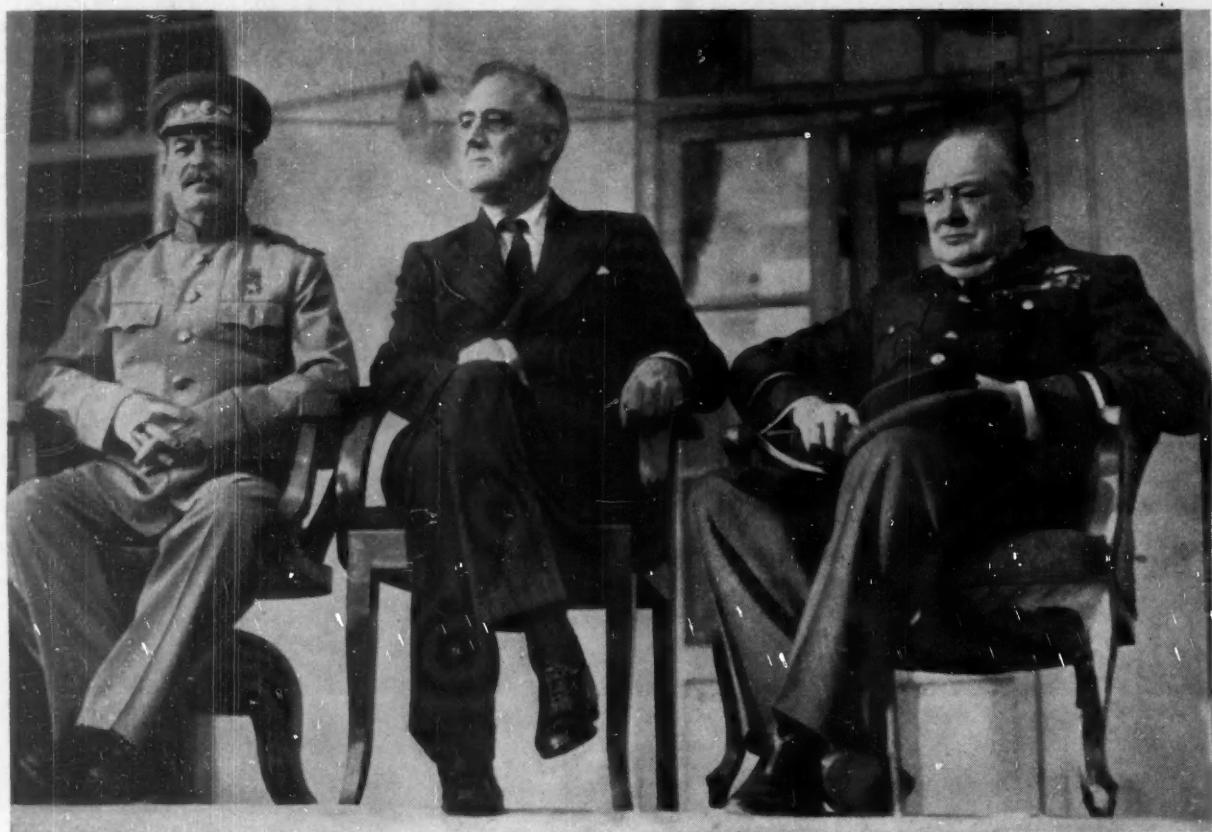
Both the free nations and Soviet-dominated countries are making determined efforts to attract customers for their goods and to show the world what they can produce. Nations from both sides of the Iron Curtain are especially striving to make a good showing at international trade fairs held from time to time.

Red Czechoslovakia, for instance, has extensive displays of its autos, light planes, jewelry, textiles, glassware, and other items on exhibit at the Canadian International Trade Fair opening today at Toronto. Britain, West Germany, and other western nations also have large displays there.

Meanwhile, we are making plans to display more goods than any other nation at a fair to be held in India this fall. Both the U. S. government and private American industries will have exhibits there.



NURSES FROM THAILAND are learning American medical techniques in U. S. service hospitals in Japan. Later they will train others in their own land.



THE TEHRAN CONFERENCE was the first occasion at which western leaders sat down with Joseph Stalin of Russia. The principal aim of the 1943 meeting was to draw up a blueprint for victory over Nazi Germany. Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill were accompanied by their top advisers at the parley in the capital city of Iran.

Big Four Parley

(Continued from page 1)

this time, public opinion in the U. S., Britain, and France seemed generally to favor it. It was widely felt that a meeting might ease world tension.

Most western leaders felt, too, that the time is more favorable now for a high-level conference than it had been earlier. Now that West Germany has become a full-fledged member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, our leaders feel that the danger of Russia's using a Big Four meeting to stir up trouble among the western powers is not so great as it once was. West Germany is—for the present, at least—tied solidly to the free world.

Russia's internal troubles, it is thought, may be behind the Soviet decision to take part in this summer's conference. It is known that Russia is having mounting difficulties with its farm program, and the Soviet plan of aiding communist China is said to be putting severe strains on the Russian economy. Most western observers question whether the long-term aims of the Soviet Union have really changed, but think that the Russians may want a breathing spell in the cold war.

Another important factor in the decision to have a top-level meeting was the threat of atomic warfare. It is widely felt in all lands that steps must be taken to avoid a global conflict waged with nuclear weapons. This universal feeling undoubtedly spurred on Big Four leaders to come to an agreement on a summer conference.

Many important matters will come up for discussion at the meeting. One of the main issues will be the unification of Germany.

Since World War II, Germany has been split in two. In the east is a communist state allied with Russia. West Germany has a western-type government, and is lined up with the free world.

The German people strongly desire to have their country united again. We have always indicated that we will support unification under certain conditions. The major condition is that free elections must be held throughout both eastern and western Germany before the country is united. In the past, Russia has never agreed to such elections.

Recently the Soviet Union indicated it would demand a pledge of neutrality from Germany as the principal price of unification. Germany would have to pledge—presumably—not to join any foreign alliance, and not to allow foreign military bases on her soil. Such a pledge would seem to undo the effort that we have made to ally West Germany with the free world.

Key Issue

These matters are expected to be threshed out when the Big Four leaders meet. The success of the conference may hinge on the ability of the statesmen to solve the German problem.

Disarmament is a second issue likely to come before the conference. Previous talks on the subject between the western nations and Russia have invariably broken down over the power of inspection. U. S. leaders feel that a disarmament program, to be effective, must permit inspectors of an international agency to go anywhere at any time to inspect atomic plants and to see that each country is obeying the rules.

The Soviet Union has continually opposed this idea, and her latest proposals along this line are extremely vague. However, on several other phases of disarmament, Russia has recently indicated that she may be swinging closer to the western view than in the past. Whether headway can be made on the vital issue of disarmament may be determined in this summer's talks.

A third problem which may be explored in the Big Four meeting is the situation in the Far East. There tension still runs high in the Formosa

Strait. Russia's ally, Red China, still threatens to attack Formosa, occupied by our ally, the Chinese Nationalists.

If the problem should come up—as President Eisenhower seems to feel it might—another troublesome matter will probably arise. That will be whether communist and Nationalist China should be permitted to send representatives to the conference to present their views.

How successful will the Big Four conference be? At this stage the United States is not jumping to the conclusion that the meeting will lessen world tension. We hope that it will, but we do not know how sincere Russia is in her approach.

If the Soviet Union really wants to lessen global tension, then the Big Four meeting may mark a real turning point in the cold war. On the other hand, if Russia intends to use the conference mainly for propaganda purposes, then the parley may not produce many positive results.

Many people here and abroad are hopeful, though, that the conference will be beneficial. Bolstering their hope is the fact that this summer's

meeting will mark the first time since the outbreak of the cold war—right after World War II—that U. S., British, French, and Russian top leaders have all sat down together to talk over common problems.

Is it a good thing to have the nations' top leaders carry on international negotiations? This question has always been a source of controversy, and the coming Big Four meeting has again brought it to the fore.

Some feel that top-level conferences are generally unwise and unproductive. They say: "Personal diplomacy is seldom, if ever, effective. Its success depends too much on the personality of the conference participants and their ability to 'hit it off together.'

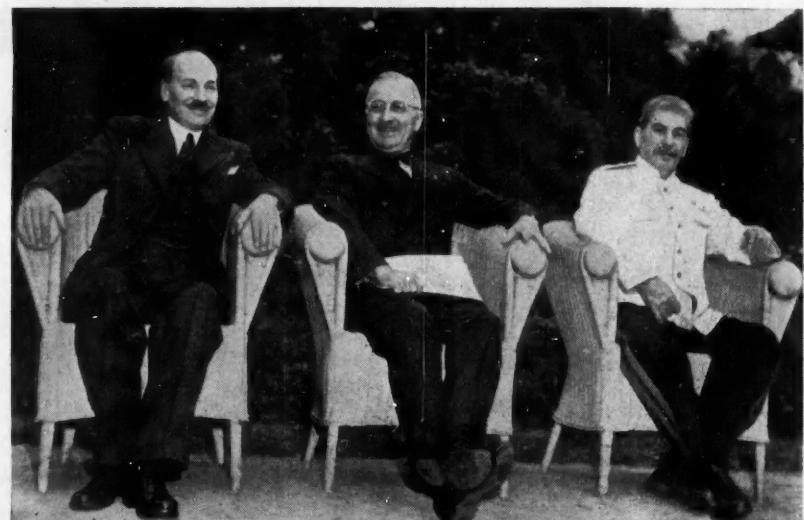
"Yet disagreements among nations usually stem from many small but complex differences. With all their varied duties, the top leaders cannot possibly have the detailed knowledge that is required to resolve these differences. The spur-of-the-moment decisions they make may be unsound, leading to further misunderstandings. It is better to try to create mutual understanding through normal diplomatic channels with experts handling the details."

Others feel that when nations disagree, the top leaders of these countries are better qualified than any others to work out a solution. Those who hold this viewpoint say: "It is always a promising approach to the solution of any international problem to have the top leaders handle the negotiations. The fact that they will make the effort to do so shows that they are determined to work out differences."

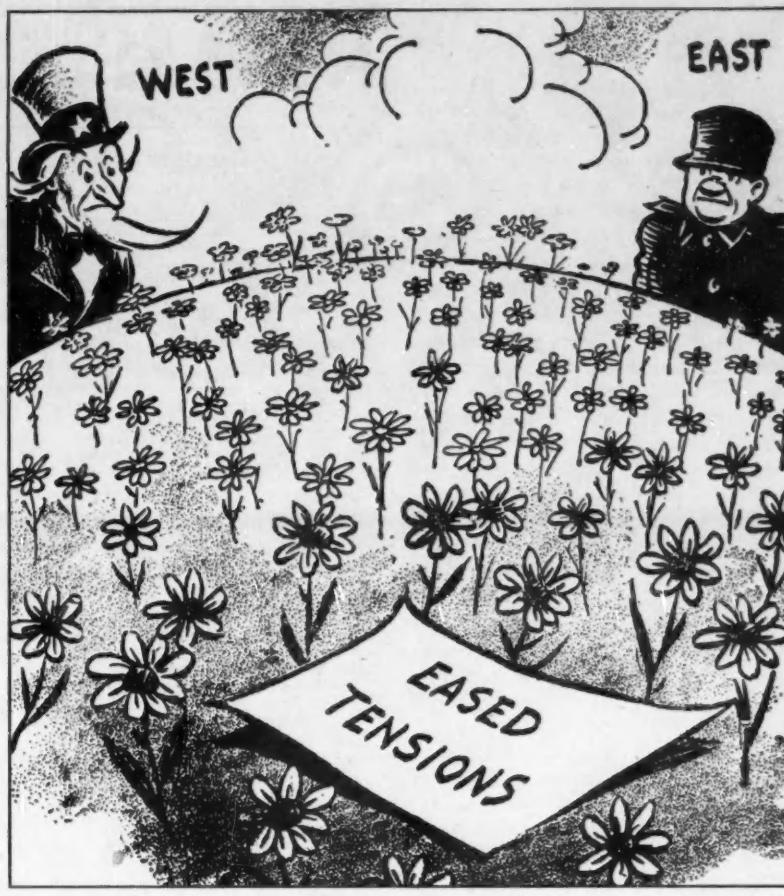
Petty Details

"Experts are too likely to get bogged down in petty details, and unlike the top leaders, their views are often limited, and they are out of touch with public opinion. The top officials are more likely to arrive at decisions that take into account all the complex factors involved in both the foreign and domestic affairs of their nations. Moreover, the top leaders can speak for their countries with an authority that lesser officials would not possess."

The debate over the value of high-level conferences reached a peak in the years immediately following World War II. During the conflict, several meetings of top leaders took place, and important decisions were made. In the following paragraphs we are reviewing briefly those conferences of the war years in which the chiefs of state of both the United



NEAR POTSDAM, Germany, in 1945, Clement Attlee, Harry Truman, and Joseph Stalin met to decide the fate of defeated enemy countries in Europe



JUSTUS IN MINNEAPOLIS STAR

States and the Soviet Union took part.

Tehran. In November 1943, President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill journeyed to Tehran, the capital of Iran, to meet Premier Joseph Stalin of Russia. All three were accompanied by top military advisers.

The principal aim of the meeting was to draw up a blueprint for victory over Germany. It was agreed that British and U. S. troops would open a second front in Europe in 1944, so that Germany, already facing a Russian advance from the east, would be caught in a great pincers movement. The three leaders agreed to "make a peace which will command the goodwill of the overwhelming mass of the peoples of the world and banish the scourge and terror of war for many generations."

Yalta. Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met for the second and last time in February 1945 at Yalta, a Russian resort city on the Crimean Peninsula in the Black Sea.

At Yalta the Big Three planned the final phase of the war against Japan, laid the foundations for the United Nations, and agreed on important territorial changes. In Europe, it was agreed to break up Germany into occupation zones, to punish war criminals, and to arrange for the payment of war damages by the Germans. The boundaries of postwar Poland were fixed to take in a part of land held by Germany just before the war. It was agreed to broaden the base of the Polish government, and to hold free elections in that country as soon as possible.

A part of the Yalta agreement that was kept secret until the following year pertained to Asia. Russia agreed to enter the war against Japan and was granted certain concessions. For example, it was agreed that Outer Mongolia would remain closely tied to Soviet Russia rather than go under Chinese control. Territory taken from Russia by Japan in the war between those two countries in 1904 would, it was decreed, be restored to Russia.

(In recent years there has been much controversy over what went on at the Yalta Conference. Many Republicans have charged that bad mistakes were made there, including uncalled-for concessions to the Russians. Democrats have maintained that nothing wrong or underhanded took place at Yalta, and have insisted that the agreements drawn up were the most satisfactory that could be achieved with the war still going on. Release of the full record of what took place at Yalta by the State Department two months ago rekindled the controversy, but left it still unsettled.)

Potsdam. The final wartime meeting of the Big Three took place at Potsdam, a suburb of Berlin, in July and August 1945. President Harry Truman, who had become Chief Executive less than three months earlier upon the death of Franklin Roosevelt, represented the United States. Midway through the meeting, the victory of the Labor Party in British elections made Clement Attlee Prime Minister, and he took Winston Churchill's place at Potsdam. Of the original Big Three, only Stalin remained.

Truman and Churchill early in the conference asked for unconditional surrender by Japan and outlined certain peace terms. At the end of the conference, Truman, Attlee, and Stalin issued a statement, outlining Germany's future.

Whether the wartime conferences would have been more or less successful had they been conducted on a less personal basis by other than the top leaders is a question that cannot be positively answered.

The coming Big Four meeting may help to settle the debate over this type of conference. Americans can judge for themselves the effectiveness of the initial talks among the four top leaders before they turn over the big issues to the foreign ministers. Certainly all Americans—no matter how they feel about "personal diplomacy"—hope that the Big Four conference will be a success, and will mark a turning point in the cold war.

Value of Reading—By Walter E. Myer

LARGE numbers of Americans have no interest whatever in the world of books. They listen to the radio, watch television, go to the movies, scan the lighter features of their newspapers, but do little serious reading, thinking, or conversing. There are many reasons why this is an unfortunate situation. Here are a few:

In times like the present, when great dangers hang over the nation, each person should read for information. In that way alone can he acquire an understanding of current issues, and the people of the country must have a broad understanding of public questions if the paths of wisdom are to be followed. Consistent and thoughtful reading of good books, as well as newspaper and magazine articles, is therefore a patriotic duty.

Not only should we read in order to discharge our obligations as citizens, but we should also read for personal inspiration—for ideas, for vision.

If only we could meet and talk to the great men of today and the great men of the past! What a powerful stimulus to thought and action these conversations would be! No one could possibly question their value.

Although we do not have the privilege of conversing daily with the great and wise, we can come into contact with their ideas. We can do this by reading their books. We thus become acquainted with the best they ever wrote.

No one can spend all his time conversing (through books) with the lead-

ing minds of all time. But each one will do well to mix a little of the great and inspiring with the ordinary facts and ideas which come along with the associations of our everyday lives. We should enjoy the friendships of those whom we meet face to face every day. But one should not exclude those conversations with the wise and great which books may bring to us.

We should read books for pleasure as well as facts and ideas. Each one can find reading which is enjoyable, even if not of itself, very important. Many people spend much time with mystery stories. There are also books of adventure, of sports—books on almost any subject. The habit of reading books is a good insurance against boredom. When you are ill, when you have leisure time on your hands, turn to books.

But if books are to render this greatest possible service to us they must be carefully selected. They cannot safely be picked up at random. Many which come from the printing presses are not worth reading. That is why intelligent selection is so essential.

The inexperienced person is not well prepared for the job of selection. He must depend largely upon book reviews in newspapers and magazines, together with the advice of informed friends.



Walter E. Myer

Science in the News

INDIA is taking steps to save some of her wildlife. The Indian government hopes to set up national parks and game sanctuaries in various parts of the country. Twelve of India's better known animals and birds face extinction if measures are not taken to preserve them. Among these creatures are the Indian lion, the one-horned rhinoceros, the snow leopard, and the cheetah.

The shrinking jungles in India have been mainly responsible for the decrease in the number of wild animals and birds over the past 50 years. The killing of many birds by hunters has also played a part in reducing the wildlife population of the Asian country.

Now that the Navy has an atomic submarine at sea, it is experimenting with the idea of building an atomic seaplane. If successful, the plane would have tremendous speed and an almost unlimited range.

The Navy plans also to put a new jet-powered seaplane through test flights next month. The jet will be the first of its kind. The new craft,

called the P6M Seastar, could be based in bays and lagoons near battle areas, and could be supported in action by submarines or seaplane tenders.

★

A device which can turn regular cameras into radiation detectors has been invented. The gadget does not interfere with the use of the camera for normal picture taking. But when subjected to radiation, the device records the amount on a special film in the camera. The radiation shows up as a light spot on the film's black background.

Pronunciations

Beria—bĕ'ri-yă

Faure—for

Ivan Konev—ē-vā'n' kaw'nĕf

Khrushchev—krōsh-chawf

Mohammed Zahir—mō-hām'mēd zā-hir

Musaid—mō-sā'ēd

Nikolai Bulganin—nē'kō-li bōōl-gā'nin

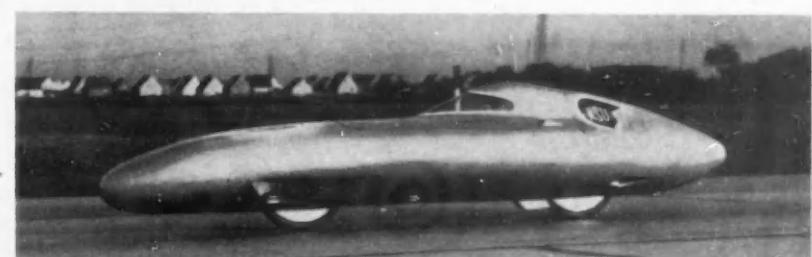
Peiping—bay-ping

Sardar Mohammed Daud—sär-där mō-hām'mēd dā-oōd

Taipei—ti-bay

Tehran—tē-hrān'

Versailles—ver-si'



UNITED PRESS
German racing enthusiasts call this motorcycle the "Flying Stretcher" because the driver must lie down to operate it. The vehicle zooms along at approximately 100 miles per hour and has set more than 20 international speed records.

Government Departments -- State

This is the first in a series of special features on important government offices and the men and women who run them. This week's article deals with the State Department and Secretary John Foster Dulles.

FEW Americans travel more miles in a year's time than does John Foster Dulles. Since becoming Secretary of State in 1953, the 66-year-old lawyer has traveled more than any other State Department chief in history. His trips for Uncle Sam have taken Dulles to almost every non-communist country in Europe and Asia. He has also called on leaders in Africa and South America. In a period of 15 months, the Secretary traveled four times the distance around the world!

Dulles has spent most of his lifetime doing jobs that have helped prepare him for his duties at the Department of State. His interest in world affairs dates back to his boyhood days in Washington, D. C. There his grandfather, John Foster, used to tell him stories of life in other countries. Mr. Foster had been Secretary of State under Benjamin Harrison.

Young Dulles held his first foreign service job at the age of 19, when he served as his grandfather's secretary at a world peace conference in 1907. Graduating from Princeton a year later, Dulles went to Paris, France, to study international law. Later he entered a New York law firm. At the end of World War I, he was chosen as a member of the U. S. delegation to the peace conference which

wrote the treaty for a defeated Germany in 1919.

After the Versailles meeting, Dulles continued to work as a highly successful lawyer and businessman. Nevertheless, he still found time to attend many of the world's big conferences.

In 1945, Dulles was named as a



John Foster Dulles
Secretary of State

U. S. delegate to the San Francisco Conference, which drew up the Charter for the United Nations. Six years later, he helped to draw up a peace treaty for Japan.

Dulles usually starts his day early and works late into the night. He almost always spends additional hours at home, working on materials he carries with him in a well-filled case. From time to time, the Secretary of

State manages to take time out to hunt and fish—his favorite sports.

The State Department is one of the oldest and most important offices in the government. As Secretary of State, Dulles is President Eisenhower's chief adviser on foreign affairs. The Secretary keeps tabs on the success or failure of our overseas policies, meets with foreign political and diplomatic leaders, and supervises the work of some 29,500 employees who are scattered throughout the globe.

Dulles has a number of helpers who work with him. His chief aide and right-hand man is Herbert Hoover, Jr. As Under Secretary of State, Hoover helps Dulles make foreign policy decisions, and acts as State Department chief when the Secretary is away.

A number of offices, headed by persons with the rank of Assistant Secretary, collect information and make foreign policy recommendations about specific areas of the world. For instance, there are separate offices that handle dealings with Latin America, Europe, the Far East, and so on. A special agency supervises our United Nations activities. Another office deals with trade problems.

The State Department also supervises our program for giving aid to underdeveloped countries; carries on information programs to counteract communist propaganda; and conducts world-wide intelligence activities. Finally, all ambassadors, ministers, and other diplomatic representatives of the United States are supervised by the Secretary of State.

Historical Backgrounds -- U. S. Farms

AS we report in an article that begins on page 1, modern agricultural machinery may have contributed to the dust problem which now confronts the Great Plains. Such machinery has enabled our people to clear away the protective grass covering from far more acres of land than could have been plowed and cultivated otherwise. Part of this land is in regions that sometimes undergo long periods of drought, during which grass is needed to keep the soil from blowing.

Advantages

But, while modern farm machines have helped create some problems, they have on the whole greatly increased our nation's productive capacity—and they have made life much easier for the average farmer.

In early times, raising crops required a tremendous amount of hard labor. Ground had to be prepared with a horse-drawn plow. Seed was planted by hand. The farmer and his sons—and occasionally a hired hand or two—cut the grain with scythes and picked ears of corn from the stalks, one by one, at harvest time. Grain kernels were separated (threshed) from the straw stalks by beating the grain on the barn floor with a flail—a stick attached to a handle by a leather cord.

Mechanical aids to the farmer began coming along by the 1800's, and they helped to ease the task of turning out bigger crops. Cyrus McCormick offered the reaper—which replaced the

scythe for cutting grain—in the 1830's. Then came the thresher, which did away with the slow work of flailing grain, and the tractor. The tractor replaced the horse in drawing the reaper, the plow, and other farm implements.

The age of mechanized farming was well under way by 1910, and it has been progressing steadily ever since. Today we have the combine—a machine which is both reaper and thresher. It rolls through the field, cuts the grain, threshes it, sprays the straw on the ground, and pours the kernels into waiting trucks. The cotton farmer has a mechanical picker, which can do the work of 40 to 60 people in a day's time. A harvesting machine picks and cleans ears of corn and loads them into a trailer. It

takes the place of 12 men picking by hand.

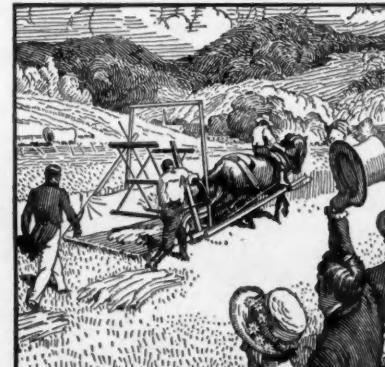
There are also machines to harvest sugar cane, lettuce, potatoes, carrots, spinach, peas, and many other crops. Besides his field equipment, the farmer has electricity to serve him. An estimated 95 per cent of the nation's farms can now obtain electric power to light houses and barns, pump water, grind feed, and freeze food supplies.

Mechanical aids—plus better seed—make it possible for the farmer to get greater harvests for each hour of his labor. An acre of wheat, for example, can now be cultivated and harvested with a total of 2½ hours of labor. A hundred years ago the same work took 64 hours.

As a result of mechanical aids, farm work today requires fewer people—in proportion to our total population—than it formerly did. In 1800, about 9 out of 10 Americans lived on the farm. Now scarcely 1 in 6 does so.

Surpluses

Farmers in the 1800's, like those of today, often had to contend with unfavorable weather—with storms and drought. But they didn't have to worry much about *crop surpluses*. This is a newer problem, brought on by our skyrocketing agricultural productive capacity. It has been with us much of the time since the end of World War I. Our federal government started tackling the problem of farm surpluses more than 20 years ago, but no completely satisfactory solution has yet been found.



INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER CO.
ONE OF THE machines which brought great changes in American agriculture was the reaper invented by Cyrus McCormick, over a century ago

News Quiz

Drought

1. In what states is dry weather now causing farmers the most trouble?
2. Explain why many residents of the drought area object to such terms as "Dust Bowl."
3. What happened, beginning at about the time of World War I, that intensified the effects of the 1930's drought?
4. Tell why the Great Plains wasn't well prepared to meet the present period of dry weather.
5. Why is the plains region in a better financial position to "weather the storm" now than in the 1930's?
6. How are farmers now fighting the dust storms?
7. Describe some long-range measures that might be taken in preparation for future droughts.

Discussion

In your opinion, is the problem of droughts and dust storms mainly one for the farmers in the affected areas, or is it a truly national problem? Explain your position.

Big Four Meeting

1. Name the four leaders who, barring unforeseen changes, will meet in an important conference this summer.
2. What are some of the factors that led to a decision to have a top-level meeting soon?
3. In what way is Germany expected to figure in the coming talks?
4. What disarmament proposal—on which previous talks have broken down—is likely to come up once more at the Big Four meeting?
5. Give the views of those who think that international conferences are most satisfactory when carried on by the top officials of the participating governments.
6. What arguments are put forth by those who think that top-level conferences are often unwise and unproductive?
7. At what wartime conferences did Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin meet, and what decisions did they reach?
8. Name the leaders who met at Potsdam. What did they do there?

Discussion

1. Do you think that the coming Big Four meeting is more or less likely to be a success because the participating nations will be represented by their top leaders? Explain.

2. Do you believe that the wartime conferences would have proved more satisfactory if they had been carried out on a more formal, and less personal, basis? Why, or why not?

Miscellaneous

1. Who is General Maxwell Taylor and what new duties will he take over soon?
2. What new moves has Russia been making in eastern Europe?
3. Where is Afghanistan and why is it in the news?
4. About how many dollars' worth of materials has Russia taken out of Austria since World War II?
5. What steps must West Germany's legislature take before she can go ahead with rearmament plans?
6. Name some of the treaties and agreements we have made with other countries since World War II.
7. Tell something about John Foster Dulles and the work of the government department he heads.

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